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VOL. 7.

CAIRO, ILLINOIS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1876.

NO. 336.

### The Bulletin.

THE CONFEDERACY.

Gen. George H. Sharp on the Decline and Fall of the Rebellion.

An Interesting Lecture on the "Last Hours of the Confederacy.

General George H. Sharp, surveyor of the port of New York, delivered a lec-ture last evening in the Harlem Con-gregation church on the "Last Hours of the Contederacy." It is doubtful if there is another man in the whole country so well qualified to speak upon this subject as General Sharp. Serving upon General Grant's staff from the time that officer assumed command of the armies of the United States until the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, having ex-clusive management of the secret service branch of the army, and being withal a keen observer. General Sharp knows more of the last struggles of the Southern Confederacy than any man either North

r South. His becare last evening was replete with highly interesting historical facts and personal reminiscences. Beginning with what he termed the "falling for-tures of the Comederacy," the speaker said that it was not until the winter of 1864-5 that the Northern commanders were at all accurately informed of the po-sition, strength, and resources of the At the commencement of the

struggle the Confederate War Office knew the number and strength of every regiment that marched through Washington in less than thirty-six hours after its arrival at the capital. The South was then a unit. All were loyal and enthusi-astic, and the matter of obtaming news from their lines was a very difficult one indeed. To the North the South was a sealed book, while they had no difficulty in obtaining information of all our movements and very many of our plans. But in the fall of 1864 this con-dition of things began to change and was very soon completely reversed. "The tailing fortunes of the rebellion" now betailing fortunes of the rebellion" now became apparent. Hitherto every one
within the Southern lines was loyal in
action, word and belief; but now they
saw the ship was sluking and that no
power on earth could keep her clear. As
a result very many people living in the
South began giving information to our
armies. Traders and store-keepers in the
towns and villages readily lent their aid
in furnishing data of the movements of the
Confederates, and it was but a short time
until General Grant, through the Secret
Service Bureau, received almost daily Service Bureau, received almost daily reports of the amount of fixed ammuition and number of guns in and about Rich-mond, the amount of provisions on hand and constantly being received via the canal and the railroads, and what was being done at the Tredegar iron works. Beside this teneral Sharp had a complete roster of Lee's army—so complete that, as the speaker said, he would not have cared to have it corrected by one of Lee's staff. Not a regiment or a battery could pass

through Richmond or Petersburg with-out the fact being known at Grant's headquarters in less than twenty-four hours. Indeed, so complete was this source of information that when the Confederate may made a last and most desperate offort to get past our obstructions and war vessels in the James river, the fact that the movement would be made was known at City Point forty-eight hours before the at City Point lorty-eight hours before the rams and their tenders left their moorings. This important piece of news, toggether with many others, was turnished by a clerk in the Rebel navy department. As the winter grew on it became less and less difficult to get information, until at last our army headquarters was about as well posted in regard to the strength, resources and movements of the enemy as was General Lee himself. These things were looked upon by General Grant as a

were looked upon by General Grant as a sure indication of the sudden colapse of the Confederacy, and be planned his movements accordingly. The whole South was dissatisfied and heartily sick of the unequal contest, and everything

of the unequal contest, and everything pointed to its speedy termination.

At this point General Sharp gave some exceedingly interesting accounts of the minor details and management of the secret service. There were five stations between City Point and Richmond, and a cipher dispatch would be sent from one to the other by different messengers to avoid exciting suspicion. The princi-palagent in Richmond was a lady, the same who now occupies the position of postmis-tress of that city. The speaker gave a graphic and very minute description of this lady, and whom he considers one of the shrewdest and smartest women of the

the shrewdest and smartest women of the present age.

Besides the method just mentioned of getting news to and from Richmond there was still another agency. An old soldier, who had done duty many years as a sergeant in the regular army, but who was at this time serving in the ranks of the Confederacy, made overtures to our officers. He was very timid at first, and would not enter the Union lines, so General Sharp went to see him, passing through the enemy's pickets, and remaining among them some time. The old sergeant finally became one of the General's most trusted agents.

The Richmond papers came as regular

The Richmond papers came as regular as clock work, and from them a vast deal of very valuable information was gleamed. A rebel officer who had ob-tained a leave of absence for the purpose of visiting his home, somewhere in Georgia, wrote a letter to one of these papers detailing an account of his trip home, stating that when he struck the Pied-mont railroad he found it so overwhelmed with carrying stores for the Confederate army that he could not get passage on a train and was, therefore, obliged to walk a distance of forty-eight miles. This offl-eer was quite humorous in his descrip-tion, and doubtless thought he was doing a very lunny thing; but the military in-formation contained in his letter governed to a great extent the subsequent move-ments of General Grant—the movements that resulted in the overthrow of Gen-

that resulted in the overthrow of General Lee.

Passing from this branch of the subject General Sharp turned his attention to "the closing scences of the rebellion," beginning with Lee's suicidal move against and capture of Fort Steadman. Lee learned that Grant was preparing to move early in March, while no other Union commander had ever dared to attempt a move before May. He wished to make Grant believe that the Confederate army was stronger and more vig-Thus: four espies of Blackwood or of one leview will be sent to one address for type was stronger and more vigorous than he had supposed, and to this end two brigades were hurled against fort Steadman and—were captured. Then came the assault on the entire rebelling the provement by Sharidan with

## fight of Lee and the burried pursuit. Near Burksville Ewell's command, consisting of seven general officers and 8,000 men were captured. Of a seene in connection with this capture the speaker gave a very POND'S with this capture the speaker gave a very graphic and interesting account, showing how Ganeral Ewell forgot the dignity of his position, was rebuked by him (the speaker) and subsequently by one of his division commanders—General Kershaw, of South Carolina. In conclusion, an account was given of the surrender of Lee, which occurred in a large room and not under an apple tree, and how every loyal heart bounded when the 400 guns captured from the enemy were made to belef forth a grand salute that shook the very heavens.

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weeks when I was completely prostrated with hemorrhage from the lungs, buring four screen bleeding spills within two weeks, and first three inside of nine days. In the September following, I improved sufficiently to be able to be about, though in a very feeble state. My bronchial trouble remained and the catarrh was tenfold worse than before. Every effort for resident sound truthers.

worse than before. Every effort for re-hef scened fruitless. I seemed to be losing ground daily. I continued in this techic state, raising blood almost daily until about the first of March '73, when

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